

Claims

- [c1] A dieting aid comprising at least one pair of frames which are capable of being secured to the maxillary and mandibular jaws respectively of a wearer, each of said frames having secured thereto magnetic means in a disposition such that the magnetic means of the maxillary frame at least partially superpose the magnetic means of the mandibular frame when secured to the teeth within the mouth of a wearer, and wherein the frames are cast from impressions of the maxillary and mandibular jaws so as to fit snugly over the plurality of teeth for which said frames are cast and wherein the frames are provided with inter-dentally extensible and retractable means capable of releasably securing the frames over said plurality of teeth.
- [c2] A dieting aid according to claim 1 wherein said frames are cast for the dental quadrants of the maxillary and mandibular dentitions.
- [c3] A dieting aid according to claim 1 wherein the frames are cast in such a manner to provide interdentally extending nibs on the lingual side of said frames.
- [c4] A dieting aid according to claim 3 wherein the polarities of the magnetic means on the maxillary frame and the mandibular frame are opposite on the surfaces thereof which are more proximate when the frames are in mounted on the teeth within the mouth of the wearer.
- [c5] A dieting aid according to claim 4 wherein the magnetic means are split pole magnets.
- [c6] A dieting aid according to claim 4 wherein shoulder formations are provided partially or entirely around, or to one side of one of the magnetic means provided on at least one frame secured to one or other of the maxillary or mandibular dentition, the magnetic means provided on a second frame secured to the alternate dentition above or below said first magnetic means abutting said shoulder formations when the dentitions are in their substantially occluded condition to prevent significant lateral movement

thereof.

- [c7] A dieting aid according to claim 4 wherein the frames include buttresses which support the magnetic means.
- [c8] A dieting aid according to claim 4 wherein the magnetic means are disposed on the buccal side of the frame as it is situated inside the mouth.
- [c9] A dieting aid according to claim 4 wherein the disposition and orientation of the magnetic means on each of the maxillary and mandibular frames is such that when in mating contact ensuring the occlusion of the jaws of the wearer, the so-called freeway space between the biting or occlusal surfaces of at least the anterior teeth is maintained.
- [c10] A dieting aid according to claim 4 wherein the frames substantially cover the external surfaces of the teeth of the dental quadrants over which said frames are secured.
- [c11] A dieting aid according to claim 1 wherein the magnetic means are laser welded to the frames and are provided with a planar mating surface.
- [c12] A dieting aid according to claim 1 wherein the magnetic means are secured to the frame by being set in an acrylic compound mass disposed to one side of the frame.
- [c13] A dieting aid according to claim 12 wherein the frames are provided with retention lugs on the buccal side of the frame when disposed over the teeth within the mouth by virtue of which the acrylic mass is secured to the frames.
- [c14] A dieting aid according to claim 13 wherein the acrylic compound mass is tooth colored.
- [c15] A dieting aid according to claim 13 wherein the acrylic compound mass is flesh colored.
- [c16] A dieting aid according to claim 1 wherein the frames consist of a tooth

biting or occluded surface cover portion, and a side wall portion which depends from or extends upwardly of the cover portion depending on whether the frame is for affixing to a maxillary or mandibular dentition, said side wall portion in use ideally being in contact with the necks of the teeth over which the frame is applied.

- [c17] A dieting aid according to claim 16 wherein the sidewall portion is disposed *beneath or above the cover portion on the opposite side of said cover portion to that on which the interdental screws are disposed so that a lateral clamping effect is achieved therewith.*
- [c18] A dieting aid according to claim 16 characterized in that the cover portion is imperforate.
- [c19] A dieting aid according to claim 16 characterized in that the cover portion is of lattice-type construction.
- [c20] A dieting aid according to claim 1 wherein the magnetic means are replaceable.
- [c21] A dieting aid according to claim 20 wherein said magnetic means consist of magnets having a body which terminates in at least one substantially planar contact surface, said body being received in collet formations secured to the buccal side of the frames.
- [c22] A dieting aid according to claim 21 wherein the body of the magnets are provided with a screw thread which interengages with a corresponding thread on the inside surface of the collet formations on the frame.
- [c23] A dieting aid according to claim 1 wherein each of the frames for either or both of the upper and lower dentitions are cast as a single piece and resiliently deformable so as to be capable of snap fitting onto the lingual side of the teeth and over the biting surfaces thereof.
- [c24] A dieting aid according to claim 17 wherein the side wall portion of the frame allows for the undercut of the teeth with whose sides said side wall

portions is in contact to take account of the barrel shape of the teeth above the gums.

[c25] A dieting aid according to claim 1 characterized in that the frames are cast in Titanium

A method of restricting oral ingestion comprising the mounting of at least two frames to the maxillary and mandibular jaws of a human, said frames having magnetic means secured thereto in positions whereat said magnetic means are substantially superposed above one another when the jaws are closed, and wherein the magnetic forces of attraction or repulsion constrain the jaws of the wearer to assume either an adjacent or displaced apart position respectively, said magnetic forces substantially limiting the ability of the wearer to move the jaws together and apart repetitively in the action of mastication.

[c26] A method according to claim 26 wherein four frames are used, said frames being secured to the upper, lower, left and right rear dental quadrants.

[c27] A method according to claim 26 wherein the polarities of the magnetic means are opposite on those sides of the magnetic means on the maxillary frame and the mandibular frame which are closest to one another when the frames are affixed within the mouth of a human.

[c28] A method according to claim 26 wherein the polarities of the magnetic means are alike on those sides of the magnetic means on the maxillary frame and the mandibular frame which are closest to one another when the splints are affixed within the mouth of a human.

[c29] A method according to claim 28 wherein the magnetic means employed in each frame include split pole magnets which provide closed field magnetism, said magnets in the maxillary and mandibular frames being angularly offset by substantially 180 ° so that the adjacent opposing polarity portions of each magnet in one of the maxillary or mandibular frames approaches or is brought into contact with the opposite opposing polarity portions of the

magnets in the alternate frame as the jaws are occluded.

[c30] A method according to claim 29 wherein the magnetic means employed in each frame include split pole magnets which provide closed field magnetism, said magnets in the maxillary and mandibular frames being angularly offset by substantially 180 ° so that the adjacent opposing polarity portions of each magnet in one of the maxillary or mandibular frames approaches or is brought into contact with the opposite opposing polarity portions of the magnets in the alternate frame as the jaws are occluded.

[c31] A method according to claim 26 wherein the frames are cast according to the shape of the teeth of the wearer over which said frames are affixed.

[c32] A method according to claim 26 wherein dental filler material is applied to the fitting surface of the frames before application over the specific dental quadrants.

[c33] A snoring prevention device comprising at least one pair of frames which are capable of being secured to the maxillary and mandibular jaws respectively of a wearer by suitable means, each of said frames having secured thereto magnetic means in a disposition such that the magnetic means of the maxillary frame at least partially superpose the magnetic means of the mandibular frame when secured to the teeth within the mouth of a wearer, and wherein the frames are cast from impressions of the maxillary and mandibular jaws so as to fit snugly over the plurality of teeth for which said frames are cast and wherein the frames are provided with inter-dentally extensible and retractable means capable of releasably securing the frames over said plurality of teeth.